

Composting Livestock Mortalities

Gary Teague
Teague Diversified, Inc.

The Old Way

- Burial
- Incineration
- Rendering
 - 20,000 head feedyard
 - 360 head animal mortalities/average yr
 - Rendering at \$30/head = \$10,800/yr rendering cost

Two Stages: Primary and Secondary

- Primary
 - High rate of Biological Activity
 - Rapid composting and high temperatures
 - Most of organic breakdown occurs in this stage

Two Stages: Primary and Secondary

- Secondary
 - lower biological activity
 - slower composting and lower temperatures
 - completion of biological activity and stabilization

- In the primary stage, certain criteria must be met to reduce odor and secondary nuisances
 - material mix
 - moisture levels
 - porosity
 - temperature

- Carbon/nitrogen Balance
 - -25 to 1
 - -40 to 1
 - -10 to 1

- Moisture Levels
 - 40 to 60 percent

- Temperature
 - 130 to 170 degrees

- Porosity, i.e. oxygen level in the pile
 - 1/8 inch to 2 inches

Time Required

• 20 - 90 days



























































